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In reply refer to:
PPT/FM: KESSLER, Don

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

Mr. Charles Hardester
State Registrar
Office of Vital Statistics
P.O. Box 1528
New Castle, Pennsylvania 16103

Dear Mr. Hardester:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of January 3, 1979 please find enclosed sample copies of the documents that presently accompany the body of each of the Jonestown deceased when the body leaves Dover Air Force Base Mortuary. These documents are:

1. Opinion of the Attorney General of Delaware dated December 6, 1978.

2. Statement of Assistant Delaware Attorney General Edward Kafader dated December 8, 1978.

3. Statement of Transit indicating the destination of the body.

4. Statement of Identification prepared by Dr. William Cowan, Chief of the Identification Team of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

5. Release of Liability (Assumption of Liability Statement).

6. Letter of the Solicitor General of Guyana of December 4, 1978.

In addition, we have two more documents that may be of interest to you. In a letter dated December 9, 1978 the Guyanese Solicitor General indicated that the death certificates being prepared by the Government of Guyana for the deceased from Jonestown are sufficiently complete to satisfy Guyanese legal requirements for burial and

cremation in Guyana. Furthermore, we have obtained a statement from Dover Air Force Base Mortuary officer Charles Carson that all the bodies have been embalmed and placed in hermetically sealed caskets. Mr. Carson has indicated that the bodies pose no health hazard and there is no danger of contagious disease.

We have been promised by the Government of Guyana that death certificates will be prepared for the Jonestown deceased. We expect to receive these death certificates in the near future.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would indicate what the requirements of Pennsylvania law are relative to burial and cremation of bodies in Pennsylvania. Specifically, what documentation must be presented before the body of a person who died outside Pennsylvania can be buried or cremated in Pennsylvania? We are studying the possibility of burying in Pennsylvania the bodies of identified Jonestown deceased upon the request of the next of kin as well as burial in Pennsylvania of unclaimed and unidentified bodies of the Jonestown deceased. Any citation to pertinent Pennsylvania lawsoor regulations you might be able to provide would also be helpful.

Your assistance and cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

AAG/BED

Alan A. Gise
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Overseas Consular Services

By BED
Bruce E. Dozier
Attorney-Adviser

Enclosure:
as stated

BD

PT/FM:BDozier:gc
1/4/78